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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, OCD *Just*
Sec A-M
FROM : Chief, CIA Library

DATE: 28 December 1948

SUBJECT: Foreign Book Procurement Program Based on I&S Recommendations.

1. The CIA Library has received a recommendation from the Executive for I&S that all foreign publications procured from domestic book dealers and publishers be purchased with unvouchered funds through covert means. This recommendation is in disagreement with the present practice, in which the Executive for A&M authorized vouchered funds for all purchases except those involving procurement from sensitive domestic sources.

2. Under Project OCD-20-49 the CIA Library requested I&S to determine if certain book dealers were to be handled on a sensitive basis, it was in reply to this request that the recommendation was made to handle all foreign book procurement through covert channels.

3. CIA requirements for the preparation of current estimates of the world situation cannot be adequately met unless steps are taken to ensure the timely acquisition of foreign publications, particularly periodicals and newspapers. Such materials are of little intelligence value if received weeks or months after the date of publication. Procurement through the present channel, viz. [REDACTED], leaves much to be desired.

4. The CIA Library is anxious to investigate any procedure which will improve this situation. From an operational standpoint, the use of vouchered or unvouchered funds for procurement is immaterial. Unvouchered fund ordering through covert means will, however, require the services of additional personnel in the Library since Services Branch, A&M, can process only overt requests.

5. This memorandum is designed to state for the record all information on the subject to date. It is submitted concurrently with a supplementary request to the Projects Review Committee for additional unvouchered funds to handle the program as recommended by the Executive for I&S.

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